



FORTY-THREE

OXFORD FRIENDS' MEETING
43 ST.GILES OXFORD OX1 3LW

NEWSLETTER

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Remembrance Day

In the October 2011 issue, we asked you two questions. The first thirteen responses appeared in the following issue, and we'd now like to share the next four contributions that arrived. The questions were: what, as a Quaker, will you be doing on Remembrance Sunday? What would you like us as a Meeting to do on that day?



BPM

"I will be praying for good relationships within families, friends, and neighbourhoods worldwide. I would like to see regular friendly dialogue between many people of all the nations, hopefully leading towards a more peaceful and happier world, where there is no place for greed, injustice or mass destruction."

Ursula Kneisel

"I remember with sadness those of all nationalities killed in war, and hope for a peaceful future without war."

Janet Toye

"As a Quaker I consider it utterly wrong to spend millions of pounds funding wars in foreign countries, especially as we have little or no understanding of their internal affairs. We badly need all our resources for the NHS, the education of our young people, care of the elderly, and relieving our poor. We are deafened with the propaganda to persuade us that such wars make

us safer – but on the contrary, they alienate the Arab world, and damage race relations in our own country. Unmanned drone attacks are cowardly and wicked, indiscriminately killing women and children besides so-called terrorists. How can this be right for those who claim to be Christians?"

Antonia Grandsen

"If you hug someone, it can mean you're giving and receiving happiness, understanding and gratitude. I think that's a lovely message for Remembrance Day. If people would go around giving each other hugs, that would be rather nice."

Audrey Woodward

From *Quaker Faith and Practice*

We believe that, as Quakers, we should put our whole lives under the guidance of the Spirit. This should determine our choices as individuals and as a Society between saving and spending and the way in which savings are invested. We are led to choose investments that benefit the community at large and not just ourselves and our families or small groups; to be strictly honest and truthful; and to refuse to deal in products or services which are hurtful to individuals or to society as a whole. We should only invest in accordance with our principles.

QF&P 20.57 Young Friends Central Committee, 1980

Deadline for contributions to the December 2012 issue: noon, Monday 19 November

Contributions, preferably of 500 words or fewer, would be appreciated to newsletter@oxfordquakers.org, and items for the calendar on page 6 can be emailed to alessandro.simari@keble.ox.ac.uk. Paper copy can be left in the newsletter pigeonhole at the Meeting House. For information: tel. 01865 557373 or visit www.oxfordquakers.org

British Legion Concert

Cheltenham Town Hall, 11 November 1990

*The scarlet petals fall
Moth-like on memories.
We sing the songs that everybody sang
Through two long wars, remembering
Just how it was, and how it might have been.
War memories are red as poppies are –
Wounds, banners, broken hearts,
Public euphoria and private grief.*

*People forget who never really knew
The long long agony of pain and loss,
But we were children when the zeppelins hung
Like great dark shadows over Golders Green –
A menace we could scarcely understand
Until the telegram arrived –
And Mother held us closely to her side
To tell us how it was that Father died.
And Mother cried.*

Mary Bewley (1913-2004)



Photograph courtesy of
Thomas Bewley



The warden is already selling white poppies from the Meeting House. They'll also be available from other Friends after upcoming eleven o'clock MfWs, and during business hours at the main Blackwell's bookshop.

Our annual Peace witness is held alongside the traditional service in St Giles — see page 3 of the October issue. **BPM**

Quaker Vigil at Aldermarston

(see July issue, p. 4)

We are continuing to go on the first Tuesday of every month, from about 2 pm to 6:30 pm including travel. Please ring me on 01865 725991 for arrangements. **Sarah Lasenby**

Review: *When Jesus Came to Harvard*

This is absolutely one of my favourite books. I recommend it to the Library Committee and hope Friends will enjoy it as much as I do.

Harvey Cox is the author of *The Secular City*, the *Future of Faith* and much else. The former head of the Harvard Divinity School, he is a learned, witty and unassuming man, who wears his scholarship lightly. In the 1980s, when Harvard decided to introduce a compulsory course on moral reasoning Cox, as a Christian (married to a Jew and very knowledgeable about other faiths), was asked to devise a syllabus on Jesus and the Moral Life, something he was initially reluctant to do. He persisted, fortunately, and *When Jesus Came to Harvard* is a wonderful account of what he and his students learned in the process. How I should have liked to be part of that course!

Cox knows how to attract and hold our attention. Consider some of the chapter titles. In 'Rabbi Jesus on the scene', he sets Jesus clearly in the religious, social and political context of his time; in 'Picking Just the Right Woman' he reflects on what it was about Mary that led to her being chosen and how her story may relate to the concerns of women today; 'The Gurus and the Usual Suspects' provides a novel take on stories of Jesus's birth and childhood, as well as on the parables. My favourites are 'The Crooked CEO' and 'The Spoiled Brat': yes, of course, they are the Unjust Judge and the Prodigal Son and he sheds new light on both. Each of the titles is a warning that the reader may have to start thinking differently about these stories and this is one of Cox's main themes.

The Gospels give us stories, of their own time and tradition but timeless; often enigmatic, even annoying, but challenging us to question, to think for ourselves. 'Live adventurously' is what both Cox and Jesus seem to be saying to us. Read these stories and think about them. Remembering that 'stories' are just what they are, can we read them in ways that will help us live moral lives? To quote from what Cox says about the resurrection story: 'a story fails unless it opens the listener to an underlying reality that no story can adequately tell'.

I particularly like what he says about his students and how both his thinking and theirs evolved

during the course. Coming from many religious backgrounds and none, they were puzzled, they challenged him, some of them wanted firm answers, which he couldn't give, a few were unwilling to question the beliefs with which they had grown up. Again on the subject of the resurrection, he writes: 'like the early Christians, I was left with a lot of loose ends and my students would not let me forget them. And one loose end in particular they simply would not let go of: what *did* happen to that body?'

I could go on and on, but the book is much, much better than anything I could say about it. I am currently reading it aloud to my mother. She is 96 and lost her sight just over a year ago. She relishes every chapter. I hope Friends will feel the same.

Judith Atkinson



Meetings with Remarkable Men

This beautiful film, directed by Peter Brook, concerns Gurdjieff's early years of searching for meaning in life. It will be shown in the FMH on Friday **23 November** at 7:30 pm.

For further details, see the flyers in the entrance hall and on the website:
www.gurdjieff-oxford.org.uk

Richard Thompson



Economic Justice Group

The next meeting of the Economic Justice Group will be on Tuesday **27 November** in the Garden Room at 7 for 7:30pm.

Items for discussion will include Banking Reform, Tax Justice, and contacts with local MPs. In addition, a major item will be the reform of HMRC to achieve fairer and more effective tax collection.

Dennis Price

The International Day for Tolerance

This has been observed each **16 November** since 1996, with activities directed towards educational establishments and the wider public.

www.un.org/en/events/toleranceday

Lessons from the Oncology Ward: Four *The Joy of Simple Things*

As this will be my last contribution from the Oncology Ward, I thought it would be useful to include a checklist on what to bring on future occasions.

- Lip salve – recycled hospital air is very drying
- Body lotion – ditto
- Hand lotion – ditto
- Nail clippers and emery board – nails seem to grow more quickly on inactive bodies
- Wet wipes for coping with sticky fingers
- Mouth fresheners – peppermints, Tic-Tacs – to cope with parrot's cage mouth
- Pillows from home – hospital ones can be hard
- Patterned pillowcases – so they don't get swept up into the hospital laundry
- Bedside clock – the next patient's curtains often obscure the ward clock
- Puzzle books, code-breakers, sudoku, crosswords...
- Very light reading matter – concentration is delicate!



The next items are gender-specific. The boys will have to supply their own advice.

- Plenty of nighties or pyjamas. N.B. It is easier to get out of bed in a seemly fashion in a ward full of visitors, if the said nightie is not skimpily cut!
- Plenty of underpants

Continued on page 4, column 1

Continued from page 3, column 2

- Tena panty liners – even if one doesn't have 'oops' moments, it helps to cut down the washing

The Oncology Ward at the Churchill Hospital does provide tissues and incontinence pads and pants, and does allow flowers in the ward.

My bed was situated next to the loo, and so there was many an occasion when it was useful to bury my nose in the honeysuckle! At least being situated so conveniently (ahem) had its advantages. I hadn't realised that, after a kidney operation, any elimination of fluid is of supreme interest to the medics – no matter how pathetic the volume or repulsive the hue. My urine changed from the soft pink of rose wine, to the rich brown of sweet sherry, through the deep green of virgin olive oil to a more subtle shade of yellow tinged with green. However, every drop had to be measured, so therefore, had to be kept in a bedpan until the care assistant could see to it. What a relief to be told, "No more bedpans!"

It was after a period of painful constipation, when even the news seemed to be full of nothing but austerity and loss of output, that we had a real treat. I should explain that from our window we looked down on a well formed by four exterior walls, where there were a few shrubs planted. What a priceless treat to hear the beautiful song of a visiting blackbird! I don't know if the song was of love or sadness, but it gave human hearts a warm glow that morning.

However, nothing can beat the sheer exhilaration and sweetness of the feel of fresh air on the skin after a long spell 'inside'! It was almost intoxicating, like being a small child at the seaside for the first time. It was so inspiring that, on leaving the hospital carrying my NHS walking stick and papier-mâché sick bowl (shaped like a top hat when inverted), I just couldn't help breaking into a song and dance routine!

Lesson and Blessing for Today: the greatest joys may be found in the simplest things.

Maretta Stark

Our late Friend Maretta's four 'Lessons from the Oncology Ward' are beginning to appear in Quaker Voices (available from Friends House bookshop or our Library); the first was published in the Sept. 2012 issue.



Sue Myvall



How the Dog came to be

One day God looked down on the world, and all her animals, and he saw that people had no companions. So he combined Hope, and Love, and Trust and Beauty and he made the first dog, all gold and soft and perfect. And he called the dog Lolly, because children loved her so much. Then he gave the dog to a girl called Tabitha, and Tabitha loved Lolly for ever and ever.

Esther

The New School Year

same school
same teacher
same Classroom

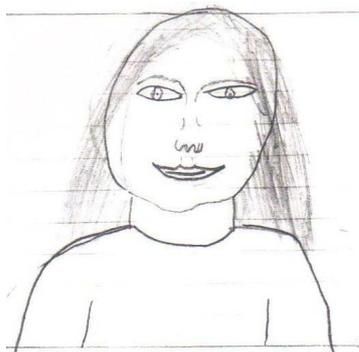
new headteacher
new school year
new Class (3!)

I feel different
I feel the same

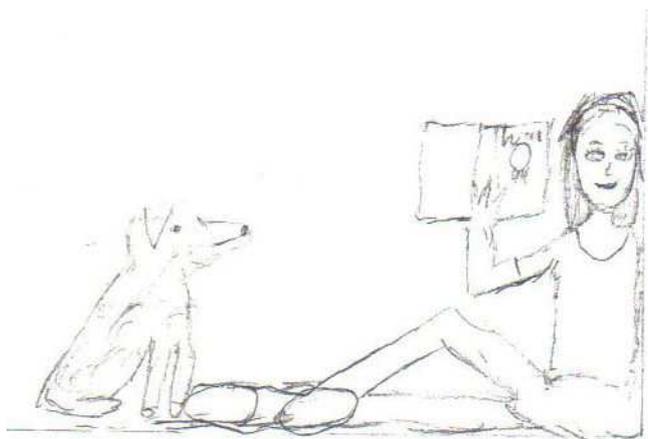
different assembly
different lessons
different Classes
(each Class moved up)

I feel different
I feel the same

The new school year



Rosamund



A wiggly waggly worm.
A squiggly squaggly slug.
A tickly wickle spider thing.
A creepy crawly bug.
Of all the things to be
I'm happy that I'm me
Thank you Lord
I'm happy that I'm me.

Beatrice

Meetings and Notices

University Lectures this term

- 'The ambiguity of cosmic purpose and the challenge of Wisdom's parable', by Andrew Pinsent at 8:15 for 8:30 pm on **1 November**, Sutro Room, Trinity College, Broad Street
- 'The Christian Atheist', by Canon Brian Mountford at 5 pm on **6 November**, 15 Norham Gardens
- 'The transformation of humankind', by James Martin at 6 pm on **13 November**, Martin Wood Lecture Theatre, Parks Road
- 'The future of energy and transport', by Elon Musk at 5 pm on **14 November**, the Sheldonian Theatre, Broad Street
- 'Universal health coverage: science, research and practice', by Joe Kutzin (WHO) at 5 pm on **23 November**, EP Abraham Lecture Theatre, Green Templeton College (register via ruth.loseby@gtc.ox.ac.uk)
- 'Interdisciplinary Seminar in the Study of Religions: Sex, Property and Asceticism', by Conrad Leyser at 5 pm on **29 November**, in the Seminar Room of 41 St Giles

There are also talks at the Pitt Rivers Museum intended for those with a background in anthropology, including:

- 'The evolution of human egalitarianism', by Frank Marlowe (Cambridge) at 3:30 pm on **9 November**
- 'Synchrony and similarity in human cooperation', by Emma Cohen at 3:30 pm on **30 November**

For more details, see www.ox.ac.uk/gazette

Celebrate **Interfaith Week** from
18-27 November — www.interfaithweek.org

Reminder: Friday with Friends at 7:30 pm on 2 November:
'Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy - the science and the spiritual journey' by Kathy & Stuart

CALENDAR FOR NOVEMBER 2012

All 43 St Giles unless otherwise indicated

Thursday 1	7:30 pm	Meeting for Worship for Young Adults	Sunday 11	10:15 am	Area Meeting (<i>in Abingdon</i>) — see below
Friday 2	7 for 7:30 pm	Friday with Friends on Duchenne MD — see October issue, p. 5	Sunday 11	6 pm	Vera Brittain event (<i>at Somerville College</i>) — see October issue, p. 3
Sunday 4	11:00 am	Friendly Bible Study	Thursday 15	7:30 pm	Meeting for Worship for Young Adults
Sunday 4	12:30 pm	Meeting for Worship for Business	Sunday 18	11:00 am	Friendly Bible Study
Tuesday 6	2 - 6:30 pm	Aldermarston Quaker Vigil — see p. 2	Monday 19	4 - 6 pm	Poems in the Library
Thursday 8	7:30 pm	Meeting for Worship for Young Adults	Wednesday 21	1:45 pm	Friends Fellowship of Healing
Saturday 10	2 - 3:30 pm	OX1 gathering — see October issue, p. 5	Thursday 22	7:30 pm	Meeting for Worship for Young Adults
Sunday 11	10:30 am	Peace witness — see October issue, p. 3	Sunday 25	11:00 am	Friendly Bible Study
Quakers in Focus: On Wednesdays at 7 for 7:30 pm in the Library, come discuss and learn about Quakerism. Dates: 14, 21, 28 November , and 16, 23, 30 January. For more information, contact Jenny Buffery (01235 526285) or Glen Williams.			Sunday 25	12:30 pm	Bring-and-share lunch
			Thursday 29	7:30 pm	Meeting for Worship for Young Adults

The Alister Hardy Society Oxford & Cotswold Group present a **Divination Day** comparing methods of divination for personal spiritual growth, on Saturday **17 November**, from 10 am – 4 pm, in Peace House, 19 Paradise Street, OX1 1LD, with Dr Rikky Rooksby presenting an introduction to the *I Ching* and Dr Roger Straughan presenting a personal communication and divination method. Fees: AHS members £10; non-members: £15. Refreshments provided, but please bring your own lunch. Booking deadline: 12 November. **Rhonda Riachi**, ahs@riachi.free-online.co.uk

Area Meeting

We'll worship from 10:15 am on **11 November** at the Abingdon Wellbeing & Resources Centre, OX14 3GD. The theme at lunchtime is 'Recognizing Spiritual Gifts', and AM will start at 2 pm.

MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP

Sundays at 9:30 and 11 a.m. at 43 St Giles (followed by tea and coffee)

Wednesdays at 12:15 p.m. at 43 St Giles (followed by tea and coffee)

Tuesdays and **Thursdays** at 7:30 a.m. at 43 St Giles (followed by breakfast at 8 a.m.)

Sundays at 10 a.m. at The Priory, 85 Old High St, Headington

OPENING TIMES (43 ST GILES)

Wednesday - Friday, 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Forty-Three is available online, at www.oxfordquakers.org/newsletter

If you are considering writing an article or notice but would prefer it not to go online, please don't hesitate to contribute it. Just indicate that the piece is not for inclusion in the internet version — no reason will be asked for. Articles and notices are very welcome to appear in the print edition only, and the same applies to calendar items.

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